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SOURCE Yeni Istanbul.REPORT NEW PURGES IN RUMANIA

The purges which have taken place in Rumania recently have broken all previous records. According to recent statistics, prepared on the basis of figures whose accuracy had been investigated, 480,000 persons are now in jails and forced labor camps. A 1948 law concerning enemies of the regime and sabotage has made it possible to jail all suspicious persons. Many officers were arrested from last July until November, and estimates place the number of persons purged at about 15,000. After the officers had been detained for a time in jails and concentration camps, they were sent to an unknown destination. In the second half of January, 80 Catholic priests and a few Jesuits who were well known for their religious efforts were arrested.

Even the Rumanian Communist Party has been subjected to purges. Many active members of the Communist Party have begun to complain of the looting of their country by the USSR. The Rumanian Communist newspaper Scanteia does not conceal the fact that the peasants have sabotaged the stocks of grain seized by the government. Recently, about 2,000 leading members of the Communist Party were sent to the northern provinces under arrest.

In 1950, the Communist Party recalled the membership cards of 200,000 members. However, despite the purges, no change has occurred in the situation. The Rumanian Communist Party has been given an order to effect reforms in the social structure; it is claimed that there are many bourgeois opportunists and conservatives in the party. In any case, the Rumanian Communist Party has requested the local organizations to rescreen their members. New lists will be drawn up soon. The current purge aims at party intellectuals and at leaders of the Social Democratic Party. A few Social Democrats are still in key positions. It is expected that they will be replaced by new elements, that is, persons trained in one of the 14 schools under Soviet control now active in Rumania.

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